Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 15 TO May 19, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
New Motor Vehicle Sales (S.A.)	March			
Alberta	13,664	1.2%	5.6%	Alberta's new motor vehicle sales rose by 1.2% in March. Sales in March increased in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. Compared to the same period last year, national sales were up 8.8%, and Alberta sales up 5.6%.
Canada	134,902	6.5%	8.8%	
Consumer Price Index	April			
Alberta	115.9	0.1%	3.3%	Alberta's CPI rose by 0.1% from March and was up 3.3% from April 1999. On a year-over-year basis, Prince Edward Island has the highest inflation among provinces with 4.0%, while Alberta is second with 3.3%.
Canada	112.4	-0.4%	2.1%	
Retail Sales ($millions)	March			
Alberta	2,610	1.5%	9.2%	In March, Alberta retail sales rose by 1.5% from February; by comparison, national retail sales were up 2.1%. From March 1999 to March of 2000, Alberta (9.2%) has the greatest increase in retail sales among the provinces.
Canada	22,826	2.1%	6.7%	
Trade Balance	1Q 2000			
Canada ($millions)	11,697	N/A	55.0% [a]	Canada's trade surplus in the first quarter 2000 ($11.7 billion) was the second highest on record, just behind the $12.1 billion trade surplus in the second quarter of 1996. This is in sharp contrast to the United States where the trade deficit in the first quarter reached a staggering $86.4 U.S. billion. The March trade deficit was at an all time record high of $30.2 U.S. billion.

[a] from 1Q 1999